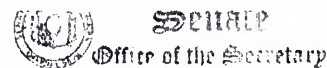


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'22 JUL 25 P1:28

SENATE

S. No. 833

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**AN ACT**  
**FACILITATING AND REGULATING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF**  
**AND INITIAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) published a study which highlighted the extent of disaster losses in the Philippines. In its report "The Human Cost of Weather-Related Disasters," the Philippines recorded a total of 130 million people affected by weather-related disasters over the period 1995-2015.<sup>1</sup>

In 2017, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in its publication "A Review of Philippine Government Disaster Financing for Recovery and Reconstruction," said that the country faces annual average losses due to earthquakes of Php 43.5 billion and Php 133.2 billion from tropical cyclones. The combined annual average loss of both perils is estimated at Php 176.6 billion.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDR) (June 2016). Protecting Lives and Property from Disaster Risk in the Philippines. Retrieved from <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/region/philippines>

<sup>2</sup> Villacin, D. T. (June 2017). A Review of Philippine Government Disaster Financing for Recovery and Reconstruction. Philippine Institute for Development Studies; Discussion Paper Series No. 2017-21. Retrieved from <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1721.pdf>

In terms of disaster risk, Philippines ranked third among all of the countries with the highest risks worldwide according to the World Risk Report 2018, with index value of 25.14%.<sup>3</sup>

The Department of Finance (DOF) revealed in 2021, that losses from natural disasters are estimated to cost the Philippines Php 506.1 billion, or approximately \$10 billion, from 2010 to 2020. The country's estimated losses and damages due to extreme weather totaled Php 515.51 billion, or about \$10.6 billion, during the course of a ten-year period, or 98.2 percent of the total. This amount is equivalent to an annual average of Php 48.9 billion, or about 0.33 percent of the annual average gross domestic product (GDP) of the Philippines.<sup>4</sup>

Due to the brunt of disasters to human life and the economy, the Philippines received various international assistance from neighboring countries and allies. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the international aid agency Oxfam, the United States government, the European Union, South Korea, and Japan, to name a few, were among the constant donors of the Philippines.

However, as foreign and private sector assistance continue to pour in, there is a need to ensure that resources benefit targeted communities in affected areas and respond quickly to emergency relief and recovery needs. Strict monitoring and transparent accounting of aid should be undertaken to avoid misallocation and misuse of resources.

To facilitate the ease of flow of international assistance by foreign governments and aid agencies and ensure that the aid being offered is what is needed on the ground, this seeks to designate the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) as the central focal point agency between the government of Philippines

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<sup>3</sup> World Economic Forum, 2018

<sup>4</sup> Leyco, C. (21 November 2021). PH lost P506-billion due to natural disasters. Manila Bulletin; Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/02/ph-lost-p506-trillion-due-to-natural-disasters/>

and assisting international actors to promote the effective facilitation, coordination, and oversight of international disaster assistance.

It requires the NDRRMC to consult with the local government units affected by a calamity to determine the list of goods, equipment and services needed for relief recovery. A Single Window International Facilitation Teams (SWIFTs) is also proposed to consolidate and expedite the legal requirements concerning entry of international disaster relief and personnel, goods, equipment, and transport.


By providing mechanisms to ensure the timely and efficient entry and delivery of international aid assistance in the country, it is hoped that the resources available will be put to good use. Effective policies and innovative financing to manage aid will immensely contribute to the immediate recovery of severely affected communities.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**LOREN LEGARDA**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'22 JUL 25 P 1 :28

SENATE

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S. No. 833

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**AN ACT  
FACILITATING AND REGULATING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF  
AND INITIAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance Act."

Sec. 2. *Purpose and Scope.* - This Act sets out procedures, roles and responsibilities related to the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance provided to the Philippines in the event of a disaster on its territory.

In particular, this Act:

a. sets out roles and responsibilities for key officials and departments concerned with the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance;

b. establishes procedures for initiating, coordinating, and terminating international disaster assistance;

c. establishes the mechanism for recognition of eligibility for legal facilities for certain assisting actors;

d. specifies the legal facilities to be provided to such eligible actors; and

1 e. specifies that minimum standard is expected from assisting actors providing  
2 international disaster assistance.

3 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following shall have  
4 the corresponding meanings:

5 a. *Assisting Actor* means any assisting international actor and any assisting  
6 domestic actor responding to a disaster in the Philippines;

7 b. *Assisting Domestic Actor* means any non-profit entity established under the  
8 laws of the Philippines, which is responding to a disaster in the territory of the  
9 Philippines;

10 c. *Assisting International Actor* means any foreign state, organization, entity or  
11 individual responding to a disaster on the territory of the Philippines;

12 d. *Assisting State* means any foreign government that is providing disaster relief  
13 or initial recovery assistance to the Philippines, whether through its civilian or  
14 military institutions;

15 e. *Disaster Relief* means the goods, equipment, services and internationally  
16 donated funds provided to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of disaster  
17 affected communities;

18 f. *Disaster* means a serious disruption of the functioning of society, which poses  
19 a significant, widespread threat to human life, health, property or the  
20 environment, whether arising from accident, nature, or human activity,  
21 whether developing suddenly or as the result of long-term processes, but  
22 excluding armed conflict;

23 g. *Domestic Non-Governmental Organization* or *Domestic NGO* means any non-  
24 governmental, non-profit entity, which is registered or created under the laws  
25 of the Philippines and whose mandate and activities are exclusively focused on  
26 humanitarian relief, recovery or development;

27 h. *Eligible Actor* means any assisting actor that has been determined to be  
28 eligible to receive legal facilities, in accordance with Chapters V and VI of this  
29 Act;

30 i. *Equipment* means physical items, other than goods, which come from  
31 international sources and are designated for use in disaster relief or initial

1 recovery assistance, including, but not limited to, vehicles, medical, and  
2 telecommunications equipment;

3 j. *Foreign Components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*  
4 means foreign National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies, the International  
5 Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International  
6 Committee of the Red Cross;

7 k. *Foreign Non-Governmental Organization* or Foreign NGO means any  
8 nongovernmental, not-for-profit entity not incorporated/ registered in the  
9 Philippines, whose mandate and activities are focused on humanitarian relief,  
10 recovery, or development;

11 l. *Goods* means supplies from international sources intended to be provided to  
12 disaster-affected communities for their relief or initial recovery;

13 m. *Initial Recovery Assistance* means goods, equipment, services, and  
14 internationally donated funds intended to restore *or* improve the pre-disaster  
15 living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including initiatives to  
16 increase resilience to disasters and reduce disaster risk;

17 n. *Internationally Donated Funds* means any funds donated by foreign persons  
18 or entities directly to the Government of the Philippines or to an assisting  
19 domestic actor for purposes of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance;

20 o. *International Disaster Assistance* means disaster relief and initial recovery  
21 assistance that is provided by assisting international actors, or imported or  
22 otherwise brought to Philippines from abroad by or on behalf of assisting  
23 domestic actors;

24 p. *International Disaster Relief Period* means the period following a disaster, as  
25 described in Sections 8 and 9 of this Act, during which the relevant legal  
26 facilities described in Chapter VI are made available to eligible actors for the  
27 purpose of providing disaster relief;

28 q. *International Initial Recovery Period* means the period following a disaster, as  
29 described in Sections 8 and 10 of this Act, during which the relevant legal  
30 facilities described in Chapter VI are made available to eligible actors for the  
31 purpose of providing initial recovery assistance;

1 r. *International Personnel* means the staff, and volunteers of any assisting actor  
2 providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance in the Philippines, being  
3 persons who are neither citizens of the Philippines nor domiciled in the  
4 Philippines prior to their recruitment by the assisting actor;

5 s. *Legal Facilities* means the special entitlements and exemptions that are made  
6 available to Eligible Assisting Actors under Chapter VI of this Act;

7 t. *Locally Engaged Personnel* means nationals or persons domiciled in the  
8 Philippines who are recruited as staff or volunteers by assisting international  
9 actors to provide disaster relief initial recovery assistance;

10 u. *Services* means activities undertaken by assisting actors to assist disaster-  
11 affected communities with their relief or initial recoveries, such as search and  
12 rescue activities, medical care, protection services, and information services;

13 v. *Transit Facilities* means the special entitlements and exemptions that are  
14 made available to assist international actors under Chapter VII of this Act;

15 w. *Transit Facilities Period* means the period following a disaster in another  
16 country as described in Section 62 of this Act, during which the relevant legal  
17 facilities described in chapter vii are made available to assisting actors for the  
18 purpose of providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance; and

19 x. *Transport* means the land, air or water vehicles operated on or behalf of  
20 assisting actors to transport international personnel, goods, and equipment  
21 across an international border for the purpose of providing disaster relief or  
22 initial recovery assistance.

23 Sec. 4. *Existing Rights, Privileges, and Immunities.* - Nothing in this Act shall be  
24 interpreted to limit or reduce the existing rights, privileges, or immunities of any  
25 assisting actor as separately recognized by other laws or agreements of the  
26 Philippines, and any status or headquarters agreement between the Philippines and  
27 an assisting international actor.

## 28 CHAPTER II

### 29 INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL DISASTER

#### 30 ASSISTANCE

31 Sec. 5. *Assessment of the Need for International Disaster Assistance.* -

1 a. Immediately after the onset of a major disaster, and in consultation with  
2 relevant local government units and local authorities, the National Disaster  
3 Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall make a  
4 determination, based on initial estimates, as to whether domestic capacities are  
5 likely to be sufficient to attend to the needs of affected persons for disaster relief  
6 and initial recovery assistance. This determination may also be made, at the  
7 discretion of the NDRRMC, prior to the onset of an imminent major Disaster.

8 b. In the event of a determination that domestic response capacities are not  
9 likely to be sufficient due to the scale of the disaster, the NDRRMC shall advise  
10 the President and recommend that an immediate request be made for  
11 international disaster assistance.

12 c. If such a recommendation is made, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with  
13 relevant local government units and local authorities, develop a preliminary  
14 list of goods, equipment and services required. The NDRRMC shall make this  
15 list available to potential assisting international actors immediately upon the  
16 commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant to Section 8.  
17 The list shall be updated as needed to reflect new information and changing  
18 circumstances.

19 d. A determination that domestic capacities are likely to be sufficient and that  
20 international disaster assistance is, therefore, unnecessary may be reviewed  
21 and rescinded by the NDRRMC at any time, in light of updated information.

22 *Sec. 6. Requests for International Disaster Assistance. -*

23 a. Upon the advice of the NDRRMC, the President may make a request for  
24 International Disaster Assistance. That request may be specifically directed to  
25 particular international actors, or it may be a general request directed to the  
26 international community as a whole.

27 b. The request shall be accompanied by:

28 (i) information as to the extent and type of assistance required, based on  
29 the list prepared by the NDRRMC pursuant to Section 5, unless this  
30 would lead to undue delay; and

31 (ii) information on the procedures for assisting international actors to  
32 make offers or provide assistance pursuant to Section 7.



1           *Sec. 7. Offers and Acceptance of International Assistance. -*

2           a. Assisting states and intergovernmental organizations interested in providing  
3 international disaster assistance shall direct an offer to the Department of  
4 Foreign Affairs (DFA) through the appropriate Philippine embassy. Offers  
5 should indicate, in general terms, the type, amount, and estimated duration of  
6 assistance to be provided. The DFA shall then consult with the NDRRMC about  
7 such offers. Upon the direction of the NDRRMC, the DFA may accept such  
8 offers, in whole or in part.

9           b. Assisting states planning to provide aid through military actors shall make  
10 such offers according to agreements between the Philippines and the assisting  
11 states and other relevant laws of the Philippines. They may be accepted, in  
12 whole or in part, with the specific conditions set out in the aforementioned  
13 laws, regulations and/or agreements.

14           c. In the event of a general request for international disaster assistance made  
15 pursuant to Section 6(a), assisting international actors other than assisting  
16 states and intergovernmental organizations are exempt from making formal  
17 offers. However, they shall comply with the terms of the general request and  
18 shall inform the NDRRMC of the type, amount, and estimated duration of  
19 assistance to be provided in advance of their arrival.

20           d. In the absence of a general request for international disaster assistance,  
21 assisting international actors may make unsolicited offers to the DFA through,  
22 the appropriate Philippine embassy. The DFA shall consult with NDRRMC  
23 and upon its direction, may accept such offers, in whole or in part.

24           *Sec. 8. International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Periods. -*

25           a. The international disaster relief and recovery periods shall both commence  
26 simultaneously upon the issuance of a request for international disaster  
27 assistance under Section 6, or upon acceptance of an offer under Section 7, and  
28 shall continue until terminated pursuant to Section 9 or Section 10, as  
29 appropriate.

30           b. The legal facilities described in Chapter VI shall only be effective during the  
31 international disaster relief and initial recovery periods.

32           *Sec. 9. Termination of the International Disaster Relief Period -*

1 a. When, on the basis of updated needs assessments and other information and  
2 in consultation with assisting actors, the NDRRMC is satisfied that the need for  
3 disaster relief is coming to an end, it shall advise the President to approve a  
4 termination date for the international disaster relief period, with due  
5 consideration for the impact on ongoing relief activities. This termination shall  
6 not affect the ongoing validity of the international initial recovery period.

7 b. The termination date shall be announced to assisting actors no later than 30  
8 days prior to the proposed date. The announcement shall also include  
9 information about the anticipated ongoing needs for goods and services related  
10 to initial recovery assistance, if any.

11 c. Upon the issuance of an announcement pursuant to this Section, the  
12 NDRRMC shall consult with assisting actors actively involved in disaster relief  
13 work in order to reduce any negative impact from the termination and, where  
14 necessary, to ensure an adequate handover of responsibilities.

15 *Sec. 10. Termination of the International Initial Recovery Period. -*

16 a. When, on the basis of updated needs assessments and other information, and  
17 in consultation with assisting actors, the NDRRMC is satisfied that the need for  
18 international initial recovery assistance is coming to an end, it shall advise the  
19 President to approve a termination date for the international initial recovery  
20 period, with due consideration for the impact on ongoing initial recovery  
21 activities.

22 b. The termination date shall be announced to assisting actors no later than 30  
23 days prior to the proposed date.

24 c. Upon the issuance of an announcement pursuant to this Section, the  
25 NDRRMC shall consult with assisting actors actively involved in initial  
26 recovery assistance work to reduce any negative impact from the termination  
27 and, where necessary, to ensure an adequate handover of responsibilities.

28 CHAPTER III

29 COORDINATION AND PREPAREDNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER  
30 ASSISTANCE

31 *Sec. 11. Coordination Duties and Powers of the Focal Point Agency. -*

1 a. The NDRRMC shall serve as a central focal point agency for liaison between  
2 the government of the Philippines and assisting international actors,  
3 promoting the effective facilitation, coordination, and oversight of  
4 international disaster assistance pursuant to this chapter. As such, the  
5 NDRRMC shall serve as the main counterpart for any applicable international  
6 or regional coordination mechanisms.

7 b. The NDRRMC shall inform assisting actors and relevant national and local  
8 government agencies of their rights and responsibilities under this Act and  
9 orient them to other laws, rules, or procedures especially relevant to  
10 international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance.

11 c. During the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods, the  
12 NDRRMC may order any relevant governing body of the Philippines to  
13 undertake actions or make available assets or premises required to facilitate the  
14 work of assisting international actors to provide disaster relief or initial  
15 recovery assistance. Such bodies shall comply to the fullest extent possible  
16 within their legal mandates. Any order that may impose a substantial burden  
17 on the cooperating agency may be reviewed at its request by the Secretary of  
18 the agency or department involved.

19 d. During the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods, the  
20 NDRRMC may likewise request any private actor to undertake voluntary  
21 actions, at their own expense, as needed to facilitate the work of assisting  
22 international actors to provide disaster relief or initial recovery assistance. This  
23 may include a request to lower or waive fees or charges for key services  
24 required by assisting international actors and/or to extend operating hours for  
25 their provision.

26 *Sec. 12. Taskforce on International Disaster Assistance Preparedness. -*

27 a. A cross-sectoral Taskforce on International Disaster Assistance Preparedness  
28 shall be established, to operate in accordance with this Section, under the  
29 chairmanship of the NDRRMC with the primary role of enhancing  
30 preparedness for implementation of this Act in case of a disaster requiring  
31 international disaster assistance.

32 b. The Taskforce shall be composed of representatives from:

- 1 (i) The NRRMC;
- 2 (ii) The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- 3 (iii) The Philippine Red Cross;
- 4 (iv) The Office of the Governor/s of the Province/s involved;
- 5 (v) The Office of the Members of the House of Representatives of the
- 6 District/s involved;
- 7 (vi) The Office of the Mayor/s of the city/cities involved;
- 8 (vii) Such other members as the taskforce may invite to participate,
- 9 including relevant United Nations (UN) agencies, regional
- 10 organizations, and Foreign NGOs.

11 c. The Taskforce shall provide technical advice on preparedness for the  
12 facilitation of international disaster assistance to the NDRRMC In fulfilling this  
13 role, the Taskforce shall:

- 14 (i) Prepare and update manuals, guidelines, plans or other procedures
- 15 for the entry and coordination of international disaster relief and initial
- 16 recovery assistance;
- 17 (ii) Compile and update information on existing bilateral, regional and
- 18 international coordination mechanisms applicable the Philippines, and
- 19 provide technical advice to the NDRRMC on the further development
- 20 of such mechanisms;
- 21 (iii) Develop and maintain a list of personnel nominated by the relevant
- 22 Secretaries to participate in Single Window International Facilitation
- 23 Teams (SWIFTs), as described in Section 13, and to assist the NDRRMC
- 24 to convene the SWIFTs immediately upon the commencement of an
- 25 international disaster relief period pursuant to Section 8, if required for
- 26 the volume of international disaster assistance expected;
- 27 (iv) Advise the NDRRMC on the development of technical quality
- 28 standards for international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance,
- 29 as described in Chapter IV of this Act;
- 30 (v) Develop, in accordance with Chapter V of this Act, procedures,
- 31 documentation requirements and information about the responsibilities
- 32 of assisting actors under this Act; and

1 (vi) Undertake other tasks related to international disaster assistance, as  
2 requested by the NDRRMC.

3 d. The taskforce shall meet:

4 (i) immediately upon the commencement of an international disaster  
5 relief period pursuant to Section 8, to ensure the effective operation of  
6 the SWIFTs described in Section 13 and to advise the NDRRMC on the  
7 application of relevant procedures, manuals and other technical  
8 materials concerning the facilitation of international disaster assistance;  
9 and

10 (ii) otherwise as necessary, and in no case less frequently than twice per  
11 year, to review national preparedness for implementing the provisions  
12 of this Act and to carry out the functions assigned to it pursuant to this  
13 Section.

14 *Sec. 13. Single Window International Facilitation Teams (SWIFTs). –*

15 a. Single Window International Facilitation Teams (SWIFTs) shall be  
16 established in accordance with this Section, for the purpose of consolidating  
17 and expediting the legal requirements concerning entry of incoming  
18 international disaster relief and initial recovery personnel, goods, equipment,  
19 and transport, as well as the application process for eligibility, as described in  
20 Chapter V.

21 b. In consultation with the Taskforce, the NDRRMC shall establish the  
22 membership, functions, authorities, and operating procedures for the SWIFTs,  
23 consistent with this Act and other relevant legislation.

24 c. The SWIFTs shall be composed of representatives of relevant Departments  
25 and Agencies, from the list established and updated by the Taskforce in  
26 accordance with Section 12.

27 d. Upon the commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant  
28 to Section 8, SWIFTs shall be deployed to primary points of entry for  
29 international disaster assistance, including, as circumstances dictate, relevant  
30 airports, seaports, and land border crossing points.

31 e. In the absence of a SWIFT team at a particular border crossing, officials of the  
32 Bureau of Customs shall nevertheless apply the relevant provisions of this Act.



1 (iii) seek to obtain commercial gain from their assistance;(iv) gather  
2 sensitive information of a political, economic, or military nature that is  
3 irrelevant to International Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance.

4 b. In addition, non-governmental organizations shall comply with the principle  
5 of independence. They shall not act as instruments of the foreign policy of any  
6 government.

7 Sec. 17. *Respect for the Dignity of Persons Affected by Disaster.* – Assisting actors  
8 providing international disaster assistance shall respect the dignity of persons affected  
9 by a disaster. They shall consult with the beneficiaries of their assistance in the design,  
10 implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the disaster relief and initial recovery  
11 assistance they provide.

12 Sec. 18. *Quality of Goods and Services.* – Assisting actors shall ensure that the  
13 goods and services they provide are appropriate to the needs and circumstances of  
14 persons affected by the disaster and in compliance with the requirements of this Act  
15 and all applicable laws of the Philippines. Assisting actors shall additionally comply  
16 with technical quality standards as contained by regulations to be developed by the  
17 NDRRMC.

18 Sec. 19. *Disposal of Unusable Goods, Non-Functioning Equipment, and other Waste.*  
19 - Assisting actors shall ensure that any goods or equipment they import for the  
20 purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance, which are, or which have  
21 become unusable, as well as any other waste products produced by them the course  
22 of their disaster relief or initial recovery assistance operations, are recycled or  
23 otherwise disposed of in a safe, environmentally sensitive, and effective manner in  
24 compliance with Philippine laws.

## 25 CHAPTER V

### 26 ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL FACILITIES

27 Sec. 20. *Provision of Legal Facilities to Eligible Actors.* –

28 a. The legal facilities described in Chapter are available only to eligible actors  
29 as described in this chapter and are effective only during the international  
30 disaster relief and initial recovery periods. Unless otherwise stated in Chapter  
31 VI, the legal facilities are equally effective during both of those periods.

1 b. All legal facilities described in Chapter VI shall be available to assist  
2 international actors deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21 or approved as  
3 eligible pursuant to Section 22.

4 c. The legal facilities described in Parts 1 to 5 in Chapter VI shall only be  
5 available to assist domestic actors deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21 or  
6 approved as eligible pursuant to Section 22, with respect to international  
7 personnel, goods, equipment, and transport they bring to the country from  
8 abroad to provide disaster relief or initial recovery assistance.

9 *Sec. 21. Deemed Eligibility for Legal Facilities for Certain Assisting Actors. -*

10 a. Upon the commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant  
11 to Section 8, the following assisting international actors shall be deemed eligible  
12 to receive the legal facilities described in Chapter VI of this Act without a  
13 further application process pursuant to Section 22:

14 (i) Assisting States;

15 (ii) Relevant intergovernmental organizations, including United  
16 Nations and regional organizations; and

17 (iii) Any other assisting actor that the NDRRMC wishes to deem eligible.

18 b. In order to facilitate access to the legal facilities, the NDRRMC shall provide  
19 assisting international actors described in Subsection (a) a certificate of  
20 eligibility, upon their request.

21 *Sec. 22. Application for Eligibility for Legal Facilities by Assisting Actors. -*

22 a. With the exception of those deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21, assisting  
23 actors seeking eligibility shall apply in accordance with this Section. Assisting  
24 international actors may apply only if they are recognized as a legal person in  
25 a foreign country or under international law.

26 b. The eligibility of private businesses for legal facilities shall be limited to  
27 assistance from which they make no profit or other commercial gain.

28 c. Applications for eligibility may be made in advance of any disaster, or after  
29 the onset of a disaster. In the event that eligibility for legal facilities is granted  
30 in advance of a disaster, it will remain valid for 1 year, after which a new  
31 application is required. The legal facilities will enter into legal effect only  
32 during international disaster relief or initial recovery period.



1 d. All Assisting Actors seeking eligibility shall submit:

2 (i) certified copies of documents evidencing their legal personality in a  
3 foreign jurisdiction or under international law, in the case of assisting  
4 international actors, or under the laws of the Philippines, in the case  
5 of assisting domestic actors;

6 (ii) the name and full contact details of the authorized representative of  
7 the organization and the address of its headquarters, if any, in the  
8 Philippines;

9 (iii) documentation relating to their previous experience and current  
10 capacity in providing effective disaster relief or initial recovery  
11 assistance;

12 (iv) an undertaking relating to their organizational commitment and  
13 practices concerning the responsibilities set out in Chapter IV.

14 *Sec. 23. Eligibility Determination and Certificates. -*

15 a. The NDRRMC shall respond to any application under Section 22 by either  
16 approving it and issuing a certificate of eligibility for the relevant Chapter VI  
17 legal facilities, or by giving notice that the application has not been approved.

18 (i) For applications made during the international disaster relief period,  
19 the NDRRMC shall respond no later than 2 days after receipt of all  
20 required documents.

21 (ii) For applications made after the termination of an international  
22 disaster relief period but during an international initial recovery  
23 period, the NDRRMC shall respond no later than 5 days after receipt of  
24 all required documents.

25 b. Applications from assisting actors with significant experience will be  
26 accepted unless the documentation provided or external information raises  
27 doubts as to their capacities, in which case, additional opinions, and  
28 information may be gathered prior to making a determination.

29 c. Upon approval of an application pursuant to Section 22 or upon the request  
30 of an assisting actor deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21, the NDRRMC shall  
31 issue a certificate indicating that the assisting actor is eligible for the relevant  
32 Chapter VI legal facilities. In the case of a domestic assisting actor, the

1 certificate shall state that the eligibility extends to the legal facilities in Parts 1  
2 to 5 of Chapter VI.

3 d. A certificate issued in accordance with this Section shall be valid for a period  
4 of 1 year from the date of issue and may be renewed through a new decision  
5 under Section 20 or Section 22.

6 Sec. 24. *Termination of Eligibility for Legal Facilities.* - Eligibility of assisting actors  
7 for the relevant Chapter VI legal facilities may be terminated upon the request of the  
8 eligible actor concerned or upon the termination of the legal facilities for failure to  
9 comply with this Act, pursuant to Section 56 of this Act.

## 10 CHAPTER VI

### 11 LEGAL FACILITIES FOR ELIGIBLE ACTORS

#### 12 PART 1

#### 13 INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL

14 Sec. 25. *Disaster Visa.* - The international personnel of eligible actors shall be  
15 entitled to waiver of entry visa requirements, including any associated fees or charges.  
16 International personnel who enter the Philippines under this Disaster Personnel visa  
17 waiver shall be allowed to undertake disaster relief and initial recovery work for their  
18 sponsoring entities without the requirement to seek a separate residence or work  
19 permit. As long as they continue as international personnel of their sponsoring  
20 entities, they shall be entitled to remain in or re-enter the territory as often as necessary  
21 throughout the international disaster relief and international initial recovery periods.  
22 After that time, they may apply for a relevant visa from within the country.

23 Sec. 26. *Reception of Foreign Professional Qualifications* -

24 a. Eligible assisting actors wishing to deploy international personnel for tasks  
25 requiring legal recognition of their foreign professional qualifications shall  
26 certify the validity of those qualifications and the competence of their  
27 personnel for the tasks envisaged.

28 b. Within six months of the entry into force of this Act, the Department of  
29 Foreign Affairs shall establish lists of countries and/or educational institutions  
30 whose health professionals, architectural, engineering, and other relevant  
31 professionals may be given automatic recognition of their foreign qualifications  
32 when certified by an eligible assisting actor pursuant to subsection (a) of this

1 Section. The lists shall be reviewed at least once per year and published  
2 electronically.

3 c. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall also establish expedited procedures  
4 to be applied for the assessment and recognition of the foreign qualifications of  
5 the international personnel originating from countries or institutions not  
6 included on the above-mentioned lists when certified by their sponsoring  
7 eligible assisting actor pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section.

8 d. Recognition of qualifications under this Section shall exempt international  
9 personnel of eligible actors from any obligations for compulsory membership  
10 of professional associations or other professional registration processes within  
11 the Philippines until the end of the international initial recovery period.

12 e. Recognition of qualifications under this Section shall remain valid until the  
13 end of the international initial recovery period, absent individual criminal  
14 conduct, or other professional misconduct sufficient to bar the individual from  
15 professional practice in the Philippines.

16 Sec. 27. *Recognition of Foreign Driving Licenses.* - The Land Transportation  
17 Office (LTO) and other relevant authorities shall accord temporary recognition of the  
18 foreign driving licenses of the international personnel of eligible actors, during the  
19 international disaster response and initial recovery periods.

20 Sec. 28. *Freedom of Access.* -

21 a. The international personnel of eligible actors under this Act shall be provided  
22 freedom of access to disaster-affected areas and persons requiring disaster  
23 relief or initial recovery assistance, subject only to limitations based on national  
24 security, public order, or public health, weighed in the context of the urgency  
25 of the disaster needs. They shall be permitted to provide their goods and  
26 services directly to affected persons.

27 b. In situations where the relevant authorities have decided to restrict public  
28 access to affected areas out of concern for the safety of those persons seeking to  
29 enter, they shall warn the international personnel of eligible actors, but allow  
30 them to enter, if they may do so without endangering others and if the  
31 international personnel assume the risk.

32 PART 2

1 ENTRY OF INTERNATIONAL DISASTER GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

2 Sec. 29. *Customs Facilitation and Priority Treatment* - As further described in this  
3 Part, the Bureau of Customs shall facilitate the rapid importation of consignments of  
4 goods and equipment by eligible actors and shall accord them priority treatment in  
5 handling.

6 Sec. 30. *Duty of Compliance of Eligible Actors*. - In order to benefit from the legal  
7 facilities in this part, eligible actors shall:

8 a. declare that all the goods and equipment they seek to import under this Part  
9 are exclusively for disaster relief or initial recovery assistance and that they  
10 comply with any relevant standards under national law, including as provided  
11 in this Act or its regulations; and

12 b. pack, classify and mark their consignments in accordance with the  
13 requirements described in this part and as directed by the Bureau of Customs.

14 Sec. 31. *Representation to Customs* - Eligible actors may make representations  
15 directly to the Bureau of Customs with respect to their international disaster assistance  
16 consignments or through a designated third party acting on their behalf.

17 Sec. 32. *Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes, and Restrictions*. - Consignments of  
18 goods and equipment by or on behalf of eligible actors shall benefit from:

19 a. exemption from all duties and taxes;

20 b. waiver of economic prohibitions and restrictions except for categories of  
21 special goods and equipment as provided in Part 3 of this Act; and

22 c. clearance without regard to the country of origin or the country from which  
23 the goods have arrived, subject to monitoring for reasons of public health and  
24 security.

25 Sec. 33. *Simplification of Document Requirements*. - The Bureau of Customs shall:

26 a. clear or release consignments of goods and equipment sent by or on behalf  
27 of eligible actors on the basis of a simplified/provisional goods declaration  
28 providing the minimum information necessary for the Bureau of Customs to  
29 identify the goods and equipment: Provided, that eligible actors are subject to  
30 completion of a more complete declaration within a specified period;

31 b. allow a single goods declaration for all imports of goods or equipment by or  
32 on behalf of eligible actors;

1 c. allow the goods declaration and any supporting documents relating to  
2 consignments of goods equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors to  
3 be lodged electronically and without any fee;

4 d. allow the lodging and registering or checking of the goods declaration and  
5 supporting documents prior to the arrival of consignments of goods or  
6 equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors, to facilitate their release upon  
7 arrival; and

8 e. waive any requirement of translation of details in documents relating to  
9 consignments of goods or equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors  
10 unless it is absolutely necessary for the purposes of release or clearance.

11 Sec. 34. *Extended Hours for Customs.* - During the international disaster relief  
12 period only, the Bureau of Customs shall:

13 a. upon request, and without additional charges, carry out the functions  
14 necessary for the release or clearance of consignments of goods or equipment  
15 imported by or on behalf of eligible actors outside their designated hours of  
16 business and/or away from customs offices when necessary; and

17 b. coordinate with the business hours and competencies of any other relevant  
18 departments involved in the approval of incoming consignments and,  
19 whenever possible, carry out joint operations, such as joint customs controls,  
20 including participation in SWIFTs, if established under Section 13 of this Act.

21 Sec. 35. *Inspections and Customs Security.* - During the international disaster  
22 relief period only, the Bureau of Customs shall:

23 a. on the basis of risk analysis, take only such action as it deems essential to  
24 ensure compliance with customs and related laws for the purpose of checking  
25 the goods declaration of a consignment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors;  
26 and

b. waive, as feasible, any customs security that would normally be required in  
respect of consignments of goods and equipment imported on or behalf eligible  
actors.

27 PART 3

28 EXPEDITED ENTRY AND USE RESTRICTIONS FOR SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL  
29 DISASTER GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

1           Sec. 36. *Telecommunications Equipment* -

2           a. Eligible actors shall be permitted to import telecommunications equipment  
3           for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance without  
4           restrictions, except as required for purposes of national security or public order.

5           b. Upon notification of the names, frequencies, as applicable, and locations of  
6           the intended use of such telecommunications equipment imported by eligible  
7           actors, the National Telecommunications Commission NTC shall waive any  
8           licensing requirements or fees for their use.

9           c. The NTC shall also grant eligible actors priority over domestic users with the  
10          exception of security forces, ambulance services, and other domestic  
11          emergency responders in access to bandwidth, frequencies, and satellite use for  
12          telecommunications and data transfer associated with disaster relief and initial  
13          recovery assistance.

14          Sec. 37. *Medications*. -

15          a. Eligible actors shall be permitted to import medications and medical  
16          equipment for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance so  
17          long as they conform to the requirements of this Section.

18          b. Any such medications and medical equipment shall be appropriate to the  
19          needs of the disaster-affected persons and shall be legal for use in the country  
20          of origin according to its laws as well as in Philippines according to appropriate  
21          laws on pharmaceuticals. Pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) below, a  
22          distinction shall otherwise be made between medications intended to be  
23          donated for the use of others and those eligible actors intend to use directly in  
24          providing medical services.

25          c. Medications that eligible actors intend to use directly in providing medical  
26          services in disaster relief or initial recovery assistance shall be

27                  (i) transported and maintained by the eligible actor in appropriate  
28                  conditions at all times to ensure their quality; and

29                  (ii) guarded against misappropriation and abuse.

30          d. Medications intended for donation for the use of others shall be:

31                  (i) at least 12 months from their expiry date upon arrival, unless  
32                  otherwise specifically agreed by the Department of Health (DOH);

1 (ii) transported and maintained by the eligible actor in appropriate  
2 conditions to ensure their quality until they reach their intended  
3 domestic recipients; and

4 (iii) appropriately labeled in a language understood in the affected State  
5 with the international non-proprietary name or generic name, batch  
6 number, dosage form, strength, name of the manufacturer, quantity in  
7 the container, storage conditions, and expiry date.

8 Sec. 38. *Food*. - Food imported by eligible actors shall be pursuant to expedited  
9 procedures set out by regulations to be developed within 6 months from the effectivity  
10 of this Act by the DOH and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

11 Sec. 39. *Imported Vehicles*. - The LTO shall grant temporary recognition to  
12 foreign registration and plates to vehicles imported by eligible actors during the  
13 international disaster relief period and the international initial recovery period.

14 Sec. 40. *Search Dogs*. - Search dogs imported temporarily by eligible actors shall  
15 be admitted without the need for quarantine so long as they meet the conditions and  
16 requirements of special regulations to be developed within 6 months from the  
17 effectivity of this Act by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

#### 18 PART 4

#### 19 PERMITTED DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT AND UNUSED GOODS

20 Sec. 41. *Disposition of Equipment and Unused Goods*. -

21 a. This part sets out the permitted disposition of goods or equipment for which  
22 eligible actors have received waivers or exemptions from fees, duties, taxes, or  
23 other charges pursuant to this chapter and which remain in their possession as  
24 of the end of their disaster relief and initial recovery assistance operations.

25 b. Such goods and equipment may be:

26 (i) retained by eligible actors that are non-profit entities and used or  
27 distributed by them for humanitarian, development or charitable  
28 purposes in the Philippines;

29 (ii) re-exported pursuant to Section 42;

30 (iii) donated pursuant to Section 43; or

31 (iv) disposed of pursuant to Section 19.

32 c. Additionally, such goods and equipment may be sold, but only:

1 (i) after the termination of the initial recovery period; and

2 (ii) with payment of all fees, duties, taxes, or charges that were  
3 previously waived or exempted for these items under this Chapter.

4 Sec. 42. *Re-Export of Goods and Equipment.* - Eligible actors that import  
5 equipment or goods benefitting from the legal facilities in this chapter are permitted  
6 to re-export any equipment or unused goods and to do so without the imposition of  
7 any taxes, export duties, or similar charges, provided that:

8 a. re-export is commenced no later than 2 months after the termination of the  
9 international initial recovery period; and

10 b. they provide documentation that the equipment and goods in question were  
11 originally imported for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery  
12 assistance pursuant to this Chapter.

13 Sec. 43. *Donation of Unused Goods and Equipment.* - When they are no longer  
14 needed for their disaster relief or initial recovery assistance, eligible actors are  
15 permitted to donate any imported or locally purchased goods and equipment without  
16 the imposition of any taxes, fees, duties, or similar charges on either the donor or the  
17 beneficiary, provided that:

18 a. the donation is made no later than two months after the termination of the  
19 international initial recovery period;

20 b. the eligible assisting international actor provides documentation to the BOC  
21 and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on the identity of the importer or  
22 purchaser, the date of import or purchase, and the fact that the item or group  
23 of items was imported or purchased pursuant to the legal facilities in  
24 this Chapter;

25 c. the beneficiary of the donation is the Philippine Red Cross, a domestic NGO,  
26 or other non-profit charitable or humanitarian organization established in the  
27 Philippines; and

28 d. any items thus donated may not be sold unless fees, duties, taxes, or charges  
29 that were previously waived or exempted for these items under this Chapter  
30 are paid.

31 PART 5

32 TRANSPORT





1 LEGAL CAPACITY AND EMPLOYMENT

2 Sec. 47. *Legal Capacity of Assisting International Actors.* - The status of eligibility  
3 for legal facilities of an assisting international actor includes such legal capacity as  
4 may be relevant for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes in  
5 providing international disaster relief or initial recovery assistance accordance with  
6 the laws of the Philippines during the international disaster relief and initial recovery  
7 periods, in particular the capacity to:

- 8 a. open bank accounts;
- 9 b. enter into contracts, including leases;
- 10 c. acquire and dispose of movable property;
- 11 d. receive and disburse private funds;
- 12 e. initiate legal proceedings; or
- 13 f. engage and terminate locally engaged personnel, as set out in Section 49 this  
14 Act.

15 Sec. 48. *Engagement and Termination of Locally Engaged Personnel.* -

- 16 a. Subject to Section 4 of this Act, and except as provided this Section, all  
17 eligible assisting international actors shall comply with the applicable law in  
18 the Philippines with regard to the employment of locally engaged personnel;
- 19 b. Eligible assisting international actors shall not be required to make any  
20 separate registration as employers, including for the purposes of taxation,  
21 social security, and social insurance registration requirements relating to the  
22 employment of locally engaged personnel.
- 23 c. Notwithstanding any provisions of labor and employment laws to the  
24 contrary, eligible assisting international actors may:

- 25 (i) recruit any individual legally entitled to perform the work envisaged  
26 in Philippines through a non-discriminatory process; and
- 27 (ii) engage local personnel pursuant to fixed-term contracts, which may  
28 be of short duration, and may be renewed as required without creating  
29 an open-ended obligation.

30 Sec. 49. *Jurisdiction over International Personnel.* - Jurisdiction concerning  
31 contracts between eligible assisting international actors and international personnel

1 engaged by them shall be determined based on the application of Philippine laws on  
2 jurisdiction.

3 PART 7

4 TAXATION OF ELIGIBLE ASSISTING INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

5 Sec. 50. *Value-Added Tax (VA)*. –

6 a. The supply of disaster relief and initial recovery assistance by an eligible  
7 assisting international actor shall be exempt from all vat, service taxes and  
8 similar taxes, duties, levies, and governmental fees where such supply takes  
9 place during the international disaster relief or initial recovery periods. Eligible  
10 assisting international actors shall also be exempt from registration for vat  
11 during the same periods.

12 b. In providing this legal facility the BIR shall take all practical steps to ensure  
13 that local suppliers suffer no negative financial or administrative impact in  
14 providing goods or services to eligible assisting international actors.

15 Sec. 51. *Income Tax*. –

16 a. The activities of an eligible assisting international actor carried on for the  
17 purpose of providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance shall be  
18 subject to income tax on any actual or deemed income or gain arising from such  
19 activities.

20 b. The international personnel of an eligible assisting international actor shall  
21 not be treated as a resident of the Philippines or as having any other connection  
22 with the Philippines relevant for taxation purposes by reason of their presence  
23 in the Philippines or activities undertaken there during the international  
24 disaster relief and initial recovery periods except in instances where any actual  
25 or deemed income or gain is realized.

26 Sec. 52. *Property, Assets, and Similar Taxes*. - During the international disaster  
27 relief or international initial recovery periods, no taxes, duties, levies, or governmental  
28 fees having similar effect shall accrue or be payable by eligible assisting international  
29 actors in connection with:

30 a. land, a building, or any part of a building where such land, building, or part  
31 thereof is wholly or primarily used by an eligible assisting international actor  
32 for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance; and

1 b. the assets of an eligible assisting international actor.

2 PART 8

3 CURRENCY AND BANKING

4 Sec. 53. *Right to Bring Necessary Funds and Currencies into the Country.* - The  
5 Department of Finance (DOF) shall facilitate the entry of such funds and currencies  
6 by eligible assisting international actors to provide disaster relief and initial recovery  
7 assistance.

8 Sec. 54. *Preferential Exchange Rates.* - The DOF shall make available to eligible  
9 assisting international actors the best available legal exchange rates into the state  
10 currency for funds to be used for the purpose of providing disaster relief or initial  
11 recovery assistance.

12 CHAPTER VII

13 SUPERVISION, REPORTING AND SANCTIONS

14 Sec. 55. *Supervision of Assisting Actors.* -

15 a. The NDRRMC shall be responsible for monitoring the compliance of  
16 assisting actors with their responsibilities under this Act, and in particular  
17 Chapter IV.

18 b. To facilitate the NDRRMC s oversight, it may require assisting actors to  
19 report to it, at reasonable intervals, about the disaster relief and initial recovery  
20 assistance they provide. These reports shall be made public through electronic  
21 means.

22 c. Any reporting requirements imposed by the NDRRMC under this Section  
23 shall be designed to reduce any administrative burden on assisting actors to  
24 the minimum necessary.

25 Sec. 56. *Non-Compliance by Assisting Actors.* -

26 a. If on the basis of credible information, the NDRRMC suspects that any  
27 assisting actor has failed to materially comply with its responsibilities under  
28 this Act, and in particular its responsibilities under Chapter IV, it shall  
29 immediately consult with the assisting actor and seek clarification or  
30 explanation. If still unsatisfied, the NDRRMC shall provide written notice of  
31 non-compliance along with a decision either:

- 1 (i) to require the assisting actor to bring itself into compliance within a  
2 specified period of time, with or without temporary suspension of its  
3 eligibility, if any, for legal facilities under Chapter VI;  
4 (ii) to revoke the assisting actor's eligibility, if any, for legal facilities  
5 under Chapter VI;  
6 (iii) in the case of deliberate misrepresentation or fraud, to impose fines  
7 to be set out by implementing regulation; or  
8 iv) in the most extreme cases concerning an assisting international actor,  
9 to revoke the Philippines' consent for it to provide disaster relief or  
10 initial recovery assistance in response to the disaster.

11 b. In the event of a decision to revoke pursuant to subsection (a)(iv) of this  
12 Section, if the assisting international actor lacks a legal basis independent of  
13 this Act to remain in the country, it may be required to depart, as of a date no  
14 sooner than 30 days from the date of the notice.

15 c. Decisions to suspend or revoke legal facilities pursuant to subsections  
16 (a)(i) or a)(ii) of this Section may not be given retroactive effect, except in cases  
17 of fraud or criminal misconduct attributable to the assisting international actor.

18 *Sec. 57. Transparency as to Internationally Donated Funds. —*

19 a. Internationally donated funds received by the Government of the Philippines  
20 for the purposes of disaster relief and initial recovery assistance shall be subject  
21 to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA) no later than six months after the  
22 termination of the international disaster relief period or the international initial  
23 recovery period. The results of these audits shall be made publicly available.

24 b. International donated funds received by assisting domestic actors shall be:

25 (i) maintained in a dedicated account for disaster relief or initial  
26 recovery assistance;

27 (ii) subjected to an external audit no later than six months after the  
28 termination of the international disaster relief period or the  
29 international initial recovery period, whichever is sooner. The results of  
30 these audits shall be reported to the appropriate authority and made  
31 publicly available.



1 territory is likely to be helpful, the BOC and the BI may declare the beginning  
2 of a Transit Facilities Period.

3 b. The Transit Facilities Period shall continue until terminated by the BOC and  
4 the BI, when they are satisfied that Transit Facilities are no longer required.

5 c. The termination of a Transit Facilities Period shall be announced to assisting  
6 international actors no later than 5 days prior to the proposed date.

7 d. The transit facilities described in this Chapter shall be effective only during  
8 the Transit Facilities Period.

9 *Sec. 63. Entitlement to Transit Facilities. -*

10 a. Subject to subsection (b), all assisting international actors shall be entitled to  
11 the Transit Facilities provided in this Chapter upon declaration that the  
12 international personnel, equipment, and goods that they seek to send in transit  
13 through the Philippines are for the purpose of providing international disaster  
14 relief or initial recovery assistance to a disaster-affected country.

15 b. The BOC and the BI may deny transit facilities to any assisting  
16 international actor, case of actual or suspected fraud or if necessary to  
17 safeguard national security or public health.

18 *Sec. 64. Disaster Transit Visa. --* International Personnel entering the Philippines  
19 for the purpose of transit to a disaster-affected country shall be entitled to waiver of  
20 entry visa requirements, including any associated fees or charges on the condition that  
21 they exit the territory of the Philippines within a period of 24 hours.

22 *Sec. 65. Goods and Equipment in Transit and Transshipment. -* The provisions of  
23 Parts 2 and 3 of Chapter VI shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to consignments of goods  
24 and equipment by eligible actors, when placed under customs transit or  
25 transshipment to an affected country.

26 *Sec. 66. Transport for Transit and Transshipment. -* The provisions of Part 5 of  
27 Chapter VI shall also apply mutatis mutandis, to the ground, air, and water vehicles  
28 of eligible actors in transit through the territorial lands, waters, or airspace of the  
29 Philippines to provide international disaster relief or initial recovery assistance to an  
30 affected country.

## 31 CHAPTER IX

### 32 IMPLEMENTATION, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

1           Sec. 67. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* - The NDRRMC together with the  
2   DOF, BIR, BOC, LTO, and other government agencies mentioned in this Act shall  
3   draft the rules and regulations concerning all matters which are required or permitted  
4   to be prescribed, or which are necessary to carry this Act into effect or to give effect to  
5   any power, function, duty, or authority under this Act.

6           Sec. 68. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act, or the  
7   application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitutional,  
8   the remaining sections of this Act or the application of such provision or part hereof  
9   to other persons or circumstances shall remain full force and effect.

10          Sec. 69. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and  
11   regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
12   repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

13          Sec. 70. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its approval  
14   and publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general  
15   circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,